

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 remain pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Risca et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0142232, hereinafter "Risca") in view of Matsumoto et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,508,414, hereinafter "Matsumoto"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art reference by further reciting that the windshield washer fluid feeding pipe includes a winkled portion configured to be bent in a desired direction, and each of the fixing members is integrally formed at a side of each of the posts. No new matter is introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Fig. 3 of Applicant's application.

It is a feature of an embodiment to provide a windshield washer fluid reservoir tank for a vehicle, which is externally provided with a side stepping surface, and is internally defined with a space for storing windshield washer fluid.

To achieve the above-noted feature, a windshield washer fluid reservoir tank device of the present embodiment includes, inter alia, a washer fluid reservoir tank, which is internally defined with an elongated washer fluid receiving space, and is

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externally formed with a side stepping surface that allows a user to step on the side stepping surface while boarding or alighting from the vehicle, a plurality of posts affixed at one surface of the washer fluid reservoir tank so that the posts protrude upward in a vertical direction, a plurality of fixing members integrally formed at the posts in a one to one ratio, and contacting an inner surface of a vehicle body panel so that the fixing members are fixed thereto, a washer fluid supply motor pump which is mounted on a bottom lateral region inside the washer fluid reservoir tank and is adapted to eject the washer fluid toward a windshield of the vehicle through supply hoses, and a washer fluid feeding pipe protruding upward from an upper side portion of the washer fluid reservoir tank and having a cap to be opened for replenishment of the washer fluid. Further, the windshield washer fluid feeding pipe comprises a winkled portion configured to be bent in a desired direction, and each of the fixing members is integrally formed at a side of each of the posts.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references relied upon in the rejection under 35U.S.C. 103(a) do not disclose such a combination of features, in particular that the windshield washer fluid feeding pipe comprises a winkled portion configured to be bent in a desired direction, and each of the fixing members is integrally formed at a side of each of the posts.

In the Official Action, the Examiner appears to assert that Fig. 21B of Risca discloses the fixing member, and Matsumoto discloses the windshield washer fluid feeding pipe. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Applicant notes that Risca does not include a fixing member provided at a side of the post as recited in claim 1, and {P24731 00062083.DOC}

Matsumoto does not include a feeding pipe having a wrinkled portion as also recited in claim 1.

In contrast, in the presently claimed embodiment, as set forth above, the windshield washer fluid feeding pipe 32 has a wrinkled portion 30 configured to be bent in a desired direction, and each of the fixing members 26 is integrally formed at a side of each of the posts 24.

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of Risca and Matsumoto can be properly combined, the asserted combination of Risca and Matsumoto would not result in the invention as recited in claim 1.

Thus, the rejection of independent claim 1, and of claim 3 dependent thereon under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper for at least these reasons, and withdrawal of such rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks, and claim 3 dependent therefrom is also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of its dependence from the allowable base claim and also at least based upon its recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

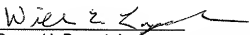
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

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Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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